

Union Trust Building (Guardian Building)
500 Griswold St.
Detroit
Wayne County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-273

HABS
MICH,
82-DET20,
42-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
MICH,
82-DETRO,
42-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Michigan	COUNTY Wayne	TOWN OR VICINITY Detroit
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Union Trust Building		HABS NO. MI-273
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Guardian Building		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 500 Griswold St.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Notable for its extensive use of metal craftsmanship and in the application of vivid colors on the exterior and well as interior.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Granite, brick, tile		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 40 stories, 485' high		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Elaborate entrance including stone carvings and colorful tiles, extensive use of terra cotta tiles on upper tower of building		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Unique extensive use of ornamental metal work used on doors, railings, screens, etc. Elevator doors are metal decorated with orange, blue and black glass manufactured by Louis C. Tiffany of New York. Interior signs also done by Tiffany.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The Gorham Company of Providence, Rhode Island manufactured the metal work used for this building.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Melissa McDonald HABS Historian		DATE 8-10-83